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THE COST OF LIVING

IN a leading Montreal newspaper in the issue of Tuesday, May 20th, we find the following sentence in a discussion of the Tramway service: "The cost of labor is at the root of commodity prices and as labor becomes more costly so does the product of labor". In another column discussing the cost of living we are told that relief will come "when the disbanded soldiers return to useful occupations and the earth yields its abundance in reward for their toil". At the end we are advised "that the individual rather than the State will have to solve the problem, and that if he does not, for a time, voluntarily accept a reduced standard of living, it will be forced upon him by the irrepealable laws of economics."

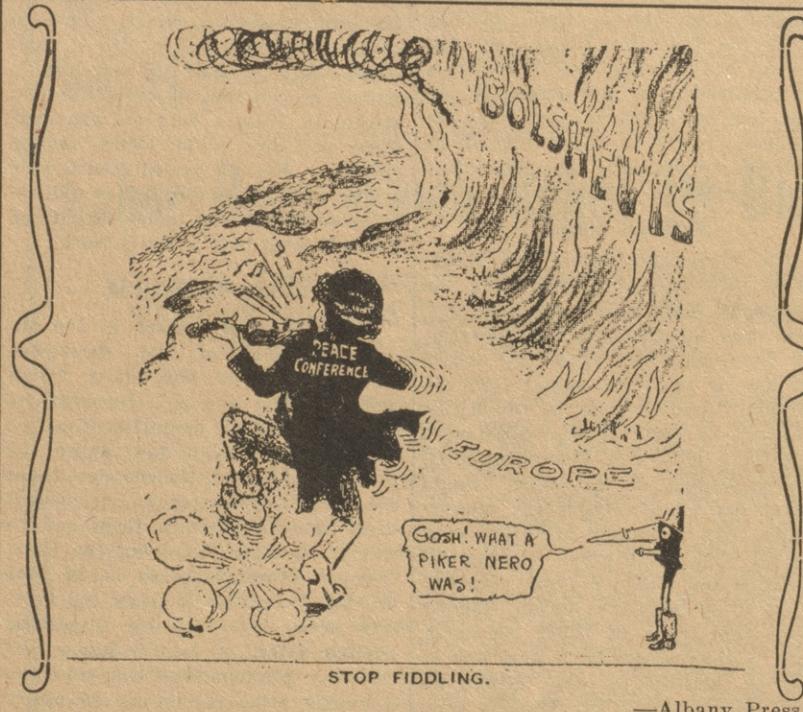
Opposed to the views expressed another leading Montreal newspaper of issue of May 17th says "Solemn statements are being issued by government authorities to show that nothing can be done and hidebound editorial writers are weepingly apologizing for their brethren of the pen who are so irreverent as to call for action in place of soothing words. The public is being told the prices are ruled by the sacred law of demand and supply. This is a stock argument that has done magnificent work for the profiteers for generations. But it won't work now. The public are refusing, and quite rightly, to bow the knee to this sacred law for the simple reason that the law of demand and supply has been shattered to fragments.

"The profiteers themselves have shattered it with the arbitrary interference with the flow of food from the producers

to the consumers. Modern methods of warehousing have enabled them to get a hold of supplies at the season when they are produced and to keep them off the market to such an extent that the supply seldom equals the de-

European consumption and then importing butter from New Zealand for Canadian use at another profit of about 36 cents!"

La Patrie of Montreal has this to say: "A letter of the Minister of Labor to the City Council of Montreal has caused lively disappointment in Montreal. He denies that the cost of living has become higher; on the contrary he affirms that it has dropped 10% since February.



mand, with the result that the prices mount sky-high and they pocket the difference.

"The Dominion dairy inspector, Dr. J. A. Ruddick, has just announced that the world's butter market is controlled by the demand of continental Europe, and Canadians will have the pleasure of paying the topnotch prices for butter that is produced in Canada. As a matter of fact we are importing New Zealand butter for our own consumption. Think of the sweet little commercial operation of exporting Canadian butter at a profit of 42 cents a pound for

That is an astonishing assertion; at the present time, in Montreal the prices are higher than ever. Fuel, bread, butter, milk, meat, ice, eggs and potatoes are dearer than ever and if the price of clothing, boots and furniture is lower, nobody has noticed..... The government has only exercised an illusory control. When it has fixed the price, it has fixed it so high that its intervention brought no relief to the consumer. In certain cases, as with milk, these orders have been ignored, in others as with fish, it has itself stimulated the

demand without limiting the profits.

"The Minister declared that there is only one remedy for the high cost of living, namely, to increase production. At the present time the production in Canada exceeds in enormous proportion the needs of the consumer. As a matter of fact we produce at least two or three times as much of all the principal provisions as is necessary to supply our wants. Exportation is the real factor in the abnormal prices and it is, at the same time, a convenient pretext for the speculator to profit at the expense of the public. Frequently Canadian products are sold in England at lower prices than in our own markets the Cost of Living Commission, the Food Control Commission, these appear to be phantoms, appointed not to bring relief to the public, but simply to induce it to endure its fate in patience under the false impression that the government is giving it protection."

The outstanding facts of the entire situation briefly are that farmers actively engaged in producing foodstuffs constitute 37% of the population, and that 63% of the population, in industrialism and other pursuits, consume what the farmer is able to produce. We have had no crop failures. If you know anything at all about farming you will have some idea of the enormous supply in foodstuffs that would be piled up when thirty-seven persons work on the farm for the purpose of providing sixty-three persons with something to eat. Any practical farmer will tell you that these thirty-seven can produce enough foodstuffs to supply hundreds and hundreds of people with enough to eat. Just ask the next farmer whom you happen to meet how many people he estimates he can sustain in food as the result of his own operation on

(Continued on page 9.)

Our Ottawa Letter

The most interesting event of a somewhat dull week has been the announcement by Sir Thomas White that the Premier is expected back within the next two weeks; he will probably sail on the "Mauretania" and arrive about the 24th. When he returns, he will be a very busy man and a variety of ticklish problems await his guiding hand for settlement. First and foremost there is the budget where the Cabinet has to choose between offending the Eastern protectionists or seeing a revolt of a body of Western Unionists, unless they have uncanny talents for compromise. The Franchise Bill is another thorny question and there is a deep suspicion that Mr. Meighen and some of the tribe of political schemers have devised a measure which will violate most British traditions and be a source of infinite trouble in the years to come. There is immense interest in the forthcoming budget debate which may mark a turning point in Canadian politics.

Sir Edward Kemp returned to his seat in the Commons for a day, but went off to attend to private business and will deal with his enemies and critics when he returns. He and Sir George Perley have earned neither the affection nor the esteem of the Canadian army overseas and are freely accused of adopting an attitude of sycophancy to secure entrance to the more exclusive circles of London society and of allowing such ambitions to interfere with the performance of their duties. Monday was spent in discussing judges' salaries and the administration of the North-West Mounted Police. When his estimates were under discussion, Mr. Carvell made a statement about the new Parliament buildings. Their progress has not come up to expectations, but though they will be far from complete, the House of Commons will be able amid a certain atmosphere of confusion and discomfort to occupy them for the next session. Mr. Carvell has a strange lack of sympathy with labor and he could not let the opportunity pass without hinting that labor was largely responsible for the backwardness of the Parliament buildings. Their cost is to reach the gigantic sum of \$8,000,000 without the furniture; it seems a monstrous sum to pay for the housing of such a Parliament as is now in session.

Liquor Questions.

On Tuesday, Sir Thomas White, to the surprise of Sir Sam Hughes, who demanded to know why he had supplanted that burning and shining light of the temperance world, Mr. Rowell, introduced in a very lackadaisical speech the resolution on which the ratification of the Prohibition Order-in-Council will be based. In its main features the Ord-

er-in-Council of February, 1919, will be continued for another year, but while the importation, manufacture and transportation of alcohol over 2½ per cent strength will be banned in general terms, provinces like Quebec which pass legislation deviating from such wholesale restriction will be allowed to carry out their local policies. Ontario, too, will be allowed to manufacture native liquors and Mr. Hume Cronyn pointed out the absurdity of allowing these, which contain over six per cent alcohol to be produced and forbidding the brewing of beer of lesser alcoholic content. Mr. J. A. Stewart, of Lanark, made an excellent speech in criticism of the bill for its undemocratic aspects and its possibilities of confusion.

Major G. W. Andrews, of Winnipeg, an outspoken midaged veteran of the war, had some courage in announcing himself an opponent of prohibition in any form. He read out a report by a distinguished body of British scientists and psychologists to the effect that alcohol, while no food for babes or the young had certain useful qualities. Mr. Rowell remained strangely silent, but sat cheek by jowl with Sir Thomas, ready to coach him if he faltered. Eventually the resolution was agreed to.

National Schools.

On Wednesday, when the House went into supply, a debate on the necessity for a national school system was initiated by Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, and made the excuse of one of the usual attacks on the French-Canadian race, in which Mr. Hocken, of the "Orange Sentinel", gleefully joined. A coordinated national system of education would offer many advantages for innovations that are badly needed, but it is not within the range of practical politics and would provoke hostility from other provinces beside Quebec. The experience of other countries, too, is that education is best left as far as possible to local authorities and decentralized. Sir Thomas White had no definite information to give Mr. Robb as to the date of the various measures yet to be considered, but he expressed great satisfaction at the progress which had already been made. The rest of the day was spent in discussing supplementary estimates. Thursday was occupied with such varied topics as the Fertilisers Act Amendment, the Bankruptcy Act, which is going steadily through and the Proprietary or Patent Medicines Act.

The early part of Friday's session was devoted to considering a bill dealing with water-powers and the evening was given up to a discussion of the Government's housing scheme, but proceedings in general were very dull. The minds of everybody were more occupied with

the Winnipeg strike than anything else—it is an event of profound significance and the Government are sorely perturbed over it.

Class Legislation.

The arrival of the Premier may give some prospect of relief from long suspense to his colleagues and it will also bring some dilemmas to a head, first and foremost of which is the fateful budget. It is undeniable that all our budgets since the war began, and, for that matter, for many years before, have been magnificent examples of class legislation. In the earlier one after 1914, there was culpable failure to institute direct taxation, and now that it has been introduced it is absurdly light compared with other countries and inadequately enforced. The proportion of taxes levied on consumption via the tariff is woefully high compared with the policies of Great Britain and the United States, who exact each a vastly greater toll from property. Taxes on consumption hit the poorer classes hard, and there has been the feeblest of attempts to place the burden on the shoulders most fitted to bear it. The weight of our consumption taxes have, in no small degree, contributed to the rise in the cost of living, which added to other taxations makes life a constant crisis for half the community and is at the root of the Winnipeg strike. In 1912, a man on wages of \$2.50 per day could secure money to buy a pair of overalls with half a day's work, to-day he would require \$5.50 per day to buy a pair of overalls with half a day's work.

Cannot be Shelved.

Added to this, there is the supreme scandal of the successive issue of tax-free war bonds, which are affording our rich corporations and capitalists a magnificent outlet for escaping their due share of taxation. It is little wonder there are strikes, growing in seriousness each time they recur, from end to end of Canada. Following the time-honored strategy, there is on foot the old, old game to draw red herrings across the trail by diverting popular attention to side issues like the alien problem. But this time the economic issue cannot be so easily shelved. It simply will not down.

It is a safe prophecy that for the next ten years politics will chiefly turn round financial and economic problems and especially round the burden of the war debt and its allocation.

There is every sign that this same problem of the war debt is causing acute anxiety to the financiers of Great Britain and France, who have temporarily shelved it and it cannot fail to give constant food for thought to Sir Thomas White and his counsellors. We may take it for granted when the "London Times" confesses it that the prospects of any indemnity from Germany worth considering have vanished. Great Britain is therefore left with a debt of 40 billions and little more than her

own resources, sadly depleted as they are, to pay it off.

Here in Canada Sir Thomas White announced last week that another domestic loan would be necessary in the fall and from the figures he furnished it is obvious that our next debt will not be less than two billion dollars. In addition we have the gigantic railway burden which the folly of by-gone governments has involved us with; the annual deficit on that score will not be less than 40 million dollars. It is true that proportionate to our population our debt is only one-third of Great Britain's per capita and it is also true that we have infinitely greater natural resources than Great Britain, but it must not be forgotten that the mother country has much larger savings and accumulated wealth and also possesses enormous overseas investments and undeveloped resources in her tropical possessions and foreign countries.

Problem Is Acute.

But for both countries the problem is indeed acute. In both governments are putting off the day of reckoning by lavish doles and bribes in the shape of expenditure on public works. A certain amount of extra expenditure was inevitable owing to the state of the world and demobilization necessities but the wanton extravagance which the practices of war generated in both countries has not been checked, and our problem so far from being solved is daily being added to. Our financial pundits from time to time assure us that the money estimate of our national indebtedness is no criterion of our real debt and that we are fortunate in having the greater part of our war loan held within our own bounds, but it is a meagre consolation. It is useless to tell people that money values have little relation to commodity values when the actual effect of a decline in prices will increase the commodity value of the debt. Everybody is yearning and paying for a decline in the cost of living but it is a tragic fact that such a decline would only increase the commodity value of the national indebtedness. If the householder sees some prospect of making his income meet his expenses, the discovery will soon follow that any balance he may see in sight will be absorbed in helping to meet an increased public indebtedness.

WEIGHTY WORDS

"We must deal fairly with each other. The American Federation of Labor is for the protection of all the people. It aims to destroy nothing."

—Samuel Gompers.

It is simply an insult to the intelligence to tell the Canadian people that homegrown creditors to whom we owe two billion dollars are less to be feared than creditors living in the United States or Great Britain because it is not to be expected that plutocratic classes will be willing in any degree to forego their claims. A fairly large proportion of our population subscribed to the various war loans in small amounts but the main bulk of it is safely held by our plutocracy. President Wilson has declared that the introduction of foreign capital into a country is equivalent to foreign conquest because the capital so admitted both claims and exercises the power of control represented by the amount of the loan. In the same way capital borrowed by the nation from its own capitalists transfers to the latter greater possibilities of control. When a private spendthrift is compelled to put

his estate into liquidation demanded by his creditors, he comes under their control. We have been a spendthrift nation and are to-day likewise under the thumb of our creditors and the political agents whom they utilise. Our bondholders are their creditors and neither the fact that they belong to the same community and shared in the spending nor the fact that the expenditure was largely incurred not in wanton debauchery and riot but in self defence, can have the slightest effect on the parallel between our present financial situation and that of the young roysterer who has "blown in" his inheritance.

In some respects the spendthrift is in a much more favorable position; he has the opportunity to make an assignment and compound with his creditors for so many cents on the dollar, but a nation is presumed to be able to declare itself bankrupt only at the risk of revolution and national suicide. Control which will be exercised by our financial Mandarins as spokesmen for the bondholders, will be skilfully concealed, but it will be there all the time. The banks will play a large part in carrying out the working of the control and dummy politicians will do the rest. Never was our predatory plutocracy so strongly entrenched, so confident of its position and so greedy for further aggrandisement.

Until we get a new Parliament,

not a bill will be passed, not an Act signed, not a policy embarked on by any government department that has not been carefully revised and approved of by our financial controllers and their hirelings.

This week there has been a pretty fight in one of the committees, that on railways, between the Mackenzie & Mann interests and the Ontario Hydro-Electric. Mr. J. D. Reid had kindly packed the committee beforehand with all Bill and Dan's jackals and the friends of public ownership were easily vanquished. There may or may not be a revolt on the Budget within the Unionist ranks, but its effects for the time being are not likely to be serious. The Ottawa Citizen on Friday published a list of Western Members who might be likely to back Mr. Crerar up if he refuses to acquiesce in a budget so favorable to the rich capitalists as Sir Thomas' previous productions. It included Dr. Michael Clark, Col. Peck, Messrs. J. F. Reid, Knox, Buchanan, Cruise, Levi Thompson and some others, but strange to say it did not include super democrats of the west, Messrs. R. L. Richardson and R. C. Henders. One of the chief causes of the failures of democracy is the fact that it is often betrayed by its chosen spokesmen.

—J. A. S.

sentiment against Labor, regardless of how just the grounds. It is capital for the employer, and he never fails to use it. We confine our politics to no party, but naturally many of our members are Socialists, as we all must believe that private ownership of public necessities is contrary to sound economics. Membership is open to man, woman, or child—anyone who labors."

No Wage Scale

"The W. I. I. U. makes no wage or scale of wage for its members, but this is cared for by the labor unions. However, we are not in sympathy with the American Federation of Labor. It is one of the greatest trusts in the world. We give the employer credit for being close enough to Labor to see its needs, but our next task is to force him to heed these needs. Our remedy is the ballot. We scan thoroughly the record of every man who aspires to public office and support or fight him as a unit. Our agents watch all legislation constantly. All we ask is that Capital obey the same laws as Labor. This would settle the entire employer and employee question if the same laws are enforced for both.

"In our headquarters we have agents always ready to hurry to any strike. Contrary to the American Federation of Labor and Industrial Workers of the World policies, we argue with the strikers, not with the employers. In this manner we have nipped in the bud what would have been some of the greatest tie-ups the country has ever seen.

"It is at these strikes that we have built up our greatest following. While the I. W. W. agents are preaching violence, our representatives call the strikers together and lecture to them along the lines of education, and invite them into our organization, promising them our strength as a law-abiding organization to fight their case politically. The results have been surprisingly good."

The Workers International Industrial Union admits that it supports the Bolshevik platform. It claims that the Bolsheviks are on basic ground and that their cause will spread about the world in spite of any measures which can be adopted for its suppression.

NEWSPAPERMEN ORGANIZE

The first Canadian trade union of journalists has been formed at Montreal, in alliance with the International Typographical Union. It is known as the Newswriters' Union. There were 79 signatories to the application for the charter, including editors and reporters on all the daily newspapers in the city, French and English, and representatives from the weekly papers. Further nominations for membership have since been received, and the movement is also taking hold in other parts of Canada.

THE Canadian Railroader WEEKLY

The Official Organ of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

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Labor Body Which Relies On Ballot

Workers International Industrial Union Acts Through Socialist Labor Party — No Wage Scale — Argues With Strikers.

Little appears to be generally known about the so-called "Detroit Branch of the I. W. W." that small group which parted from the Industrial Workers of the World in 1908 because it insisted upon the use of political means to attain the common I. W. W. goal, while the Haywood followers, throwing overboard political action, staked their hopes on revolutionary industrial means. The Detroit faction retains a name somewhat similar to the original parent title, the Workers International Industrial Union, and there is much in common between the two organizations.

The revolutionary faction entirely outstripped and overshadowed the group which held on to the original I. W. W. stand for political action. The Detroit group, however, has continued its activities. It is closely in sympathy with the Socialist Labor Party which expresses its views politically. That is to say, the Workers International Industrial Union is a labor union working politically through the Socialist Labor Party.

Methods of Industrial Union

The plan of organization and methods of the Workers International Industrial Union has been outlined by

H. Richter, general secretary-treasurer of the W. I. I. U. at Detroit.

The Workers International Industrial Union, he says, dates back to the convention of 1905, but the split between this and the Industrial Workers of the World really came in 1908, when the latter organization abandoned polities as a means toward their industrial end and adopted more radical means. It was then that the Industrial Union kept on the original path of remedial politics and the two branches have never since had a common meeting ground.

"Although we are not as widely known as the I. W. W.," Mr. Richter further states, "we are constantly growing. Our methods do not lend themselves to publicity, although we do not discourage it. At present we have between 20,000 and 30,000 members in the United States, and our greatest task thus far has been to see that every man casts his vote in the direction of his best interests as a laborer.

"Like all industrial organizations, we have our branches, the strongest of which, in Detroit, is that of the automobile workers. In the east we are strong among textile workers. Education is our watchword. We continually urge the members not to strike, as every strike creates a

Our London Letter

London, April 30.

The reassembling of Parliament, yesterday, was marked by a notable debate on the unemployment problem, which is beginning to assume serious proportions.

As one of our Labor intellectuals has wittily remarked, we have now two armies, the Army of Occupation, and the Army of No Occupation. For the moment, the latter is the one that is causing our statesmen the greatest uneasiness; even they cannot be blind to the significance of the length of the "job queue" which is now, outside the Labor Exchanges, replacing the provision queue of the war period. Over a million people are now out of work, and of these 100,000 are in the cotton district. Very naturally, Labor leaders and trade unionists everywhere are demanding that the Government should organize production and nationalize industry, instead of giving unemployment doles. It is pointed out that there is a world shortage of necessary articles while factories stand idle, that nothing has been done to start the announced schemes of housing, town planning, afforestation and intensive civilization of the soil, and that the travelling public is being put to the greatest inconvenience through want of transport facilities, while thousands of unemployed could be repairing rolling stock and manning extra trains and tubes, etc.

As J. H. Thomas says, the workers want work, not doles, though in the absence of work it is essentially their right to be secured subsistence. Both he and J. R. Clynes in the House, yesterday, pointed out that the delay in the signing of the peace, and the maintenance of the blockade round Central Europe had much to do with the present want of work.

Rounding on Employers

The new Labor minister, Sir Robert Horne, very cleverly met the attacks on his administration in the Commons debate of yesterday, by rounding on the employers and exposing the scandalous wages they offer. This was in answer to their contention that the workers prefer the unemployment benefit to taking the jobs that are offered them. He pointed out that 360,000 of the unemployed are soldiers, and of the remainder 108,000 are workers in the engineering trades, who, for their help in winning the war, are at least entitled to unemployment benefit, when the only alternative is to reduce the standard of life and wages by accepting, say \$14 a week, which is what one firm of tailors offered the men!

He added that the lack of housing accommodation prevented the reinstatement of workers in many

cases, and said further that the stoppage of the cotton mills was "the direct result of the deliberate policy of the country in maintaining the blockade". It was a clever answer to the criticisms of employers, but it was left to the Labor members to put the industrial criticisms, which Mr. Clynes did by calling upon the Government to make use of the national factories, and another Labor member by reminding members opposite that they never seemed to notice any demoralization (of the kind complained of among the workers in receipt of doles) among those who lived on unearned income.

The Blood on the Coal.

The Coal Commission has resumed its sittings, and Robert Smillie has caused a sensation by calling for the evidence of certain coal owners including several Peers. It will be an interesting moment when these magnates are confronted by the clever Scotsman who so magnificently upholds the cause of the men who work and risk their lives underground. A striking set of figures relating to accidents was given by Sidney Webb in outlining his scheme for nationalization of coal mines. Last week, he said, without any big explosion, there would be an average of 3,000 serious casualties (25 fatal) in the mines of Great Britain. Falls of side or roof accounted alone for 600 deaths and 62,000 serious injuries annually, while more than 25,000 men and boys were maimed or crushed (over 200 killed) by being run over underground by tubs or trams.

In Trade Union World.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress, which is just over, did a good deal of useful work in passing strong resolutions concerning housing, the abolition of conscription, the maintenance of mothers before and after childbirth, the release of the Scottish strikers and of all remaining conscientious objectors, and many industrial matters. The movement for uniting the trade union movement with the co-operative, which would present a solid body of nine million organized workers in opposition to the present system which exploits the consumer, is growing apace. As Fred Bramley points out, this is an International movement, close on fifteen million co-operators in various countries now carrying on trade without the intervention of the profiteer. The Police and Prisons Officers' Union is still fighting for the recognition which, they contend, was promised by Mr. Lloyd George when he told them that it could not be recognized "during the war". They are hopeful of winning, but are prepared to strike if necessary.

Patching up Peace.

Peace is still being patched up with Plaster of Paris, as one wit has put it, though to-day things look a little better. Some of the credit for the stiffening of the good forces among the Paris plenipotentiaries is due to Labor here. Eleven representatives leaders, including Henderson, Lansbury, Smillie and Thomas, sent strong telegrams, last week, to President Wilson and our Prime Minister, to strengthen their hands in making a stand for a peace based on the 14 Points, and this action has been backed by organized workers all over the country. Labor also welcomes the birth of some kind of a League of Nations, though it looks with apprehension to Hungary and Russia, and India and Ireland, and wants to know how the spirit of the League is to be translated at once into action. Three of our first Labor men, Smillie, Lansbury and Williams have addressed a spirited appeal to British men and women to protest against the bombing and shooting of unarmed men and women in India, and to demand the complete withdrawal of the Coercion Acts and the immediate introduction of self-government.

Art and Letters.

The Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon was marked, this year, by one notable production, that by the Playfair Company of "As You Like It", which was to have come on before now at Hammersmith, but has been delayed by the unprecedented popularity of "Abraham Lincoln". This invasion of the traditional stage at Stratford, consecrated hitherto to the Benson Company, by the younger generation, was something of a bomb-shell; but the audience seem to have liked being bombed with this original production which has been quite wrongly termed modern, for I am told that Mr. Nigel Playfair can cite old missals and similar authorities for his startling and beautiful color effects and costumes. The public will learn a good deal from this newest (and oldest) "As You Like It" as soon as a west-end theatre can be secured for it.

Women as Lawyers.

A memorial is being signed pressing the Government to give facilities in the House of Commons for the Bill to admit women to both branches of law. This, the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, has already passed the House of Lords, where Lord Buckmaster had it in charge; and only a few hours are necessary for its completion in the Commons.

Limerick Strike.

As a result of a declaration by the Strike Committee, stating that as the workers had entered a protest against military tyranny they should now resume work, the Limerick strike has ended as suddenly and dramatically as it began. The attempt to spread the report in certain sections of the press that there are Bolshevik elements in Irish un-

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rest is not succeeding very well. Both Mr. De Valera and Professor John MacNeill have declared that Ireland is neither Russian nor International; until she wins her freedom she is just Irish.

First food, now clothes profiteering. The high prices of the latter are now producing some interesting facts. This, for instance: a textile firm during the last two years of war made enough profit to enable them to pay 123 per cent dividend after paying excess profit duty, super-tax, income tax, etc., and within a week they issued a new price list, informing their customers they were obliged to raise their charges!

Highland Crofters.

There is a growing hunger for land among the Highlanders as they are demobilized. Here and there, the crofters are taking possession of land, only to be ejected later on by the force of the law. But this is likely to be followed up by a demand from the men for the production of the title deeds by which those who now hold the Highlands as game preserves got possession in days gone by of their lands. They are to be asked to prove their legal ownership or give up their land to the people who originally possessed it. It will be an interesting movement if it once gets going.

Evelyn Sharp.

The Way the Wind Blows

FAIR PRICES FOR FOOD

The Fair Price Committee of Guelph, Ont., last week decided to report to the City Council that a fair price for potatoes should be not more than \$1.25 per bag, that 40 cents a pound is a good price for butter, that fresh eggs should not exceed 30 cents per dozen during this month, and that the present price of meat is too high, considering the quantity in cold storage. The committee suggests that the City Council forward this report to the Government at Ottawa and recommend action thereon by the Government.

* * *

SHOP COMMITTEES

"H. M.", in the "Canadian Churchman", gives the details of an important experiment, now being tried in the mills of the Dominion Textile Company at Kingston.

A small committee of employees is elected in each department of the mill and a general committee is chosen for the whole mill. These shop committees, together with the management, will confer on all questions concerning the employees, and their working conditions. By this scheme, the workers are recognized, on a certain basis, and admission is made of the rights to have some share in the creation of regulations, etc., governing their labor.

* * *

FOR MOONEY STRIKE

Officials of the Chicago Federation of Labor announced the other day that the votes of the organized American labor on the "Mooney general protest strike programme" will be counted in public on June 2nd by the Federation intervention committee.

It was stated that 80,000 organized workers in Chicago have voted to accept the programme, and that 4,000,000 votes would be cast throughout the United States to decide whether the wheels of industry shall remain motionless until Thomas Mooney and Warren K. Billings are released from prison.

The Chicago stockyards labor council, representing 30,000 workers, voted unanimously for the general strike in behalf of the two men convicted of participation in the Preparedness Day bomb explosion in San Francisco. Sixty thousand iron and steel workers at Chicago also favored the strike, it was announced.

* * *

NATIONAL 8-HOUR DAY

The Portuguese government has decided to establish a national eight-hour work day, starting June 1.

FAVOR EDUCATION

California assembly has passed a bill requiring that industrial workers under 18 years shall be given at least four hours a week in class room between hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and that night classes shall be established in high schools to train persons under 21 unable to read or write English.

* * *

WALL STREET IS CANDID

"Our laws are all too inadequate to deal with that public enemy, the Labor agitator. We have a flabby public opinion which would wring its hands in anguish if we took the Labor leader by the scruff of the neck, backed him up against a wall and filled him with lead. Countries which consider themselves every bit as civilized as we are do not hesitate about such matters for a moment."

—(Wall Street Journal.)

* * *

CHAINS OF TYRANNY

"The links in the chains of tyranny are usually forged singly and silently, sometimes unconsciously by those who are destined to wear them."

Justice Tully Scott,
in the Colorado Supreme
Court.

WHY THEY WANT WOMEN

Employers in New York are asking for girl workers who live at home, according to Miss Mary H. Tolman, in charge of the United States employment services women's professional section, and who is quoted in a local paper:

"The purpose of these employers is obvious—they want to pay low wages. I know of only six cases in the last month where women workers were replaced by discharged soldiers. It is not being generally done.

"There is practically no unemployment problem, so far as women workers are concerned. An unskilled woman worker can get a job merely by asking for it. She may receive only \$12 or \$15 a week, which is not a cent more than is required to maintain her. Indeed some firms ask for girl workers who live at home."

* * *

24-HOUR BANK STRIKE

Employees of banks and insurance companies, at Brussels, went on a 24-hour strike in support of their demands for a general betterment of working conditions. All the banks were closed.

SCIENTISTS JOIN UNION

Scientific and technical employees of the government, at Washington, have organized a trade union and affiliated with the National Federation of Federal Employees. Some of these workers favored an independent organization "that would not interfere with their work", but they were outvoted after they failed to indicate how affiliation with the trade union movement would deny them any rights they now have. Trade union advocates showed that if they formed an independent association they would have no influence.

* * *

WAGES ARE NOT HIGHER

The so-called "princely wage" of building craftsmen does not impress a committee appointed by the commissioners of the District of Columbia to investigate the building situation in the nation's capital.

The committee reported that prospective builders can gain nothing by postponing building operations, and in discussing labor costs, the committee said:

"The wage scale of the building industry taken as a general proposition shows an increase over pre-war times, but in reality the wage of the worker suffers by comparison with that paid to the building trades mechanic prior to the declaration of the war. With the cost for the maintenance of the family doubled, it will be observed that the purchasing power of the dollar has been reduced by one-half, while the wage of the building trades mechanic has not increased two-fold. War-time commodity prices still exist.

"It is not to be expected that wages will be reduced so long as that which sustains the worker and his family remains at present price level, for the normal wage is one that will provide a normal livelihood for the employee and his family."

* * *

48-HOUR WEEK BILL

Governor Coolidge, of Massachusetts, has signed the bill fixing a 48-hour week and nine-hour day for women and minors working in any line of business in the commonwealth.

* * *

STOUT LADY'S LITTLE JOKE

He was thin and she was of ample proportions.

"Take my seat, madam", he said, as she entered the car.

"You flatter me, young man", was her reply.

* * *

CURED THE HABIT

"I presume your son's experience in the army did him a lot of good".

I should say it did. He's been home a month now and hasn't once kicked about the meals we have had".

THINK IT OVER

It is estimated that a land tax of only one per cent. on unimproved land in Canada would yield annually \$70,000,000 to \$80,000,000.

THE USUAL WAY

"How did this automobile accident happen?"

"Nobody knows."

"Nobody knows?"

"That's the situation exactly. Both drivers deny that they were in anyway responsible for it."

* * *

SAFE

"Ma, when you were married did you promise to obey Pa?"

"Yes, my dear. But I knew your Pa would never have nerve enough to crowd me to the limit on that promise".

* * *

THE TRICK

"Is it hard to write for the newspapers and the magazines?" asked the sweet young thing.

"Not at all", replied the writer. "But it is hard to get the editors to buy your stuff."

* * *

RATHER HOLLOW

Mme Knut: "I kept my head when I fell into the water."

Caustic Maid: "How fortunate! It must have helped you so nicely to float."

* * *

HAD TO BE CAREFUL

First Little Girl: "My mother doesn't allow me to use slang."

Second Ditto: "My mother doesn't, either. I'd get it in the neck if she heard me using slang like some little girls".

* * *

TO HELP PENSIONERS

C. P. R. Special Allowance in Force Till 1920

Owing to the high cost of living the C. P. R. directors have authorized a special allowance to remain in force until the end of the year 1920, representing an increase of 25 per cent. on all pension payments to officers and employees on the pension roll. The present scale of payments was adopted in 1902 and the directors are of the opinion that these allowances do not under present circumstances afford such measure of support as it was intended they should give. According to the last annual report the pension allowances for the year ending December 31st amounted to \$267,097,42, there being 854 officers and employees on the pension roll of whom 411 were over 70 years of age, and 404 between 60 and 70.

A Frank and Comprehensive View Placed Before Royal Commission

Perhaps the most comprehensive and the straightest expression of opinion yet given before the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, was that put forward at the session at Regina on May 9th by Joseph Sanbrook, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council. It is worth reproducing as fully as it can be secured from some of the daily papers, and in reproducing it here there goes with it the hope that Canadian Railroader readers will give it more than fleeting thought.

Mr Sandbrook declared that the Whitley and Rockfeller schemes are not likely to satisfy entirely the desires of the working men, and have a number of serious faults.

"The men's position in these industrial councils," said Mr. Sanbrook, "are merely in a consulting and advisory capacity, and add nothing to their authority to control and direct their own lives and labor. The men are obliged to discuss matters with the officials of the industry, men upon whose humor or good-will their continued employment frequently depends, and they will hesitate to criticize conditions when it might place them in the bad graces of their employers to do so. The business agents of the regular unions are in a much better position to handle these matters effectively. That the men do not find these systems to completely fill their needs there is evidence in the fact that the men employed where such organizations exist are continuing to form separate unions and to affiliate with other labor unions.

"The Rockfeller plan, which seems to meet with the approval of the Canadian Reconstruction Association, which association's designs seem to have been embodied in your commission, insists upon what is known as the open shop and this practice organized labor does not care to consider. Industrial councils will contribute nothing toward a solution of unemployment problems, but, on the contrary, by promoting efficiency and assisting toward greater production with less labor they will actually tend to aggravate the problem.

"But", continued Mr. Sanbrook, "we believe these works committee will serve a useful purpose in enabling workmen to become familiar with the operating problems of their plants and in training them to qualify for eventual management of the industry."

Has His Eyes Opened

"The great increase in the cost of living, among other hideous events of the past four years, has compelled the working man to give closer considerations to the conditions under which he lives and gets his living, and he cannot avoid regarding most of these conditions as almost the extremity of injustice and unfairness. He sees that profiteering, obscured or open, is the underlying motive of all business at the present day, and that service to the public is a consideration only in

so far as it tends to promote volume of business.

"He sees a system of government in which the choosing of candidates, their method of election, the organization of Parliament and of the Cabinet are all framed in such a way as to avoid as far as possible the influence of the public will and to allow an invisible Government to direct national affairs almost wholly in the interest of junkers and profiteers. He sees a great publicity and propaganda system maintained and operated to assist in continuing this method of government through misrepresentation, perhaps occasionally, through faulty conception, to cultivate and perpetuate false economic ideas for the advantage of political parties and through them to the benefit of the big commercial operators, and to keep public attention away from the most vital matters of life by fixing it on sensational happenings and trifling political affairs, thus preventing an understanding and remedying the faults as they develop and allowing them to increase until they arrive at a climax.

Hold-Up Methods in Food

"He sees an unnatural condition, in which a group of men have been holding up the nation for its last cent for munitions and war supplies at a time when the body of the nation has been suffering hardships and many of them offering their lives to preserve the nation and to protect those profiteers themselves and their privilege of extracting the last dollar from the people.

"He sees a commercial system in which demand and supply are allowed to fix prices of commodities and then big operators are allowed to corner the supply and demand all that the public has, men who will hold goods in storage until they spoil, or will even destroy food for want of which human beings are suffering, rather than allow prices to be lowered to what the people are able to pay."

GRAND TRUNK EMPLOYEE FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Mr. Charles Flaherty, Guelph Depot Master, Has Unusual Record.

Fifty-one years in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway System is the proud record of Mr. Charles Flaherty, well known Guelph railroadman and the present depot master at the local Grand Trunk Railway station,

the oldest Grand Trunk employee, in the point of continuous service, in the whole service.

Depot Master Flaherty has seen many changes in the method of railroading since that day, fifty-one years ago, when he started braking on a work train. He remembers the days when wood was used in the engine fires, and also to heat the coaches. He worked on the Grand Trunk when candles were burned to light the engine cab and also the trains. He saw the candles give way to coal oil lamps, and later saw the lamps discarded in favor of gas and electric light. He was through the hand coupling days, and the days before air-brakes were ever thought of, and also witnessed the introduction of many other improved ideas in the art of railroading.

On August 16, next, Mr. Flaherty will be sixty-five years of age, and entitled to a pension if he wishes to accept it. He is in the best of health, however, and has not given the retiring proposition a thought. For several years he and Mrs. Flaherty have been in possession of a railway pass which entitles them to travel free over the entire system of the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada and the United States, and he is happy and contented with life in general, and enjoys nothing so much as to sit down with some one who can talk of the old railroad days.

WORTH REPEATING

The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce.—U. S. Act of Congress, October 15, 1914.

WOULD TAKE TARIFF OUT OF POLITICS

In an inspiring address before the Canadian Club, at Hamilton, on May, 14, on "Canadian Citizenship and its Future", Major-Gen. MacRae, formerly Quartermaster-General of the Canadian Overseas Forces, made a plea for a square deal both for the farmer and the manufacturer and advocated the permanent Tariff Commission first proposed by the Canadian Railroader more than two months ago.

"Why not have a parliamentary committee, on which both the farmers and manufacturers would be represented, to investigate the tariff, with a view of recommending tariff legislation which will be for the welfare of the nation as a whole and not for any one class? This committee would investigate the question of selling price and cost price of the principal articles of tariff now in question, and would recommend to parliament the basis to be adopted for our tariff on the future.

"It could do no harm, and might tend to bring this about, if the manufacturers and farmers were to get

together now for a general discussion, and in this the manufacturers, being the business men, should take the initiative.

In connection with the suggestion that the tariff should be taken out of politics, General MacRae said:

"Now, while we have a Union Government, representative of both political parties, an opportunity is presented to take the tariff out of politics and place it in the hands of a permanent non-political commission, on which the different interests would be represented. Any tariff must frequently be altered, and it will require something like a standing commission to promptly and properly deal with it in accordance with changing conditions. The interest of Canadian people in all tariff adjustments, which as a rule require special knowledge and careful investigation, can surely be left with more satisfaction to the consideration and decision of a well-balanced tariff commission and their experts than to the present long-delayed, haphazard, compromising adjustments effected by Parliament, always with a great deal of discussion, agitation, uncertainty and consequent depression in business".

A. F. of L. CONVENTION

Samuel Gompers In Call To Assembly Refers To Needs Of Workers.

Samuel Gompers has issued the call to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, to open at Atlantic City on June 9. In the conference call is the following statement:

"It is, of course, unnecessary here to enumerate all the important subjects with which our forthcoming Convention will concern itself, but the reminder is not all amiss that every effort must be made to broaden the field and means for the organization of the yet unorganized workers; to strive to bring about more effectually than ever a better day in the lives and homes of the toilers; to defend and maintain by every honorable means in our power the right to organize for our common defence and advancement for the exercise of our normal and constitutional activities to protect and promote the rights and interests of the workers; to assert at any risk the equal rights before the law of every worker with every other citizen; to aid our fellow-workers against the effort to entangle the workers in the meshes of litigation before the courts in the several states; to make effective in our every day lives the principle declared in the law of our Republic (the Clayton law), that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce; to arouse our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens to the danger which threatens to curb and take away their guaranteed rights and freedom; to meet and help solve the vexatious problems of peace and reconstruction. These and other great questions of equal importance will, of necessity, occupy the attention of the Atlantic City Convention."

ed knighthoods from the assaults of Mr. Nickle and his friends. This year when they returned to the attack, Sir Thomas White staved them off for the time being with a special Committee of the House. The Committee met frequently under Mr. Nickle's chairmanship, considered the problem carefully and evolved a very radical report which was concurred in by all the twenty-five members save Sir Herbert Ames, Mr. W. F. Cockshutt and Dr. Michael Clark. The report advised that in future no hereditary or any other titles be conferred on Canadians and that the existing hereditary titles be brought to an end after a prescribed period. Knighthoods, C. M. Gs. and other brands of British decorations therefore came under the ban. The Committee also recommended that Canadians be not allowed to use any title or decoration hereafter conferred by a foreign government, but they did not do so.

THE Canadian Railroader WEEKLY

The Official Organ of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

J. A. Woodward, President
C. P. R. Conductor.
J. N. Potvin, Vice-President
C. P. R. Train Dispatcher
W. E. Berry, Sec.-Treasurer
G. T. R. Conductor

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D. Trindall, G. T. R. Locomotive Engineer
John Hogan, C. P. R. Assistant Roadmaster
Archie Dufault, C. P. R. Conductor
E. McGilly, C. P. R. Locomotive Fireman
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W. Davis, G. T. R. Engineer
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Issued in the interest of

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Railroad Conductors
Locomotive Firemen
Railroad Trainmen (Switchmen)
Maintenance of Way Men
Railroad Telegraphers
and employees in all branches of the service
Membership open to all who toil by Hand or Brain.

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GEO. PIERCE, Editor.

vocate the discontinuance of the practice of conferring military decorations like the V.C., D.S.O., and others of a like nature.

Insult to Democracy

It was a surprisingly drastic document and now came up for discussion on a motion of Mr. Nickle for its adoption. He made an excellent speech, confining himself chiefly to a history of the proceedings of the committee and quoting extracts from a variety of English papers to show that the title system was under a grave cloud in the old country. Titles in his view were "an insult to democracy which holds honest and disinterested service to the Commonwealth as its own reward, which regards the offer of a title as an indignity and its acceptance as a personal degradation."

Mr. D. D. Mackenzie followed for the opposition with one of his rambling harangues. He was against hereditary titles, but saw no harm in knighthoods. However, he would support the adoption of the report. Dr. Sheard, of Toronto, is a stern opponent of all democratic innovations, and devoutly reveres the established order of things. The report filled him with horror and indignation. It was an insult to the king, unconstitutional in its tenor, harmful in its application, detracting from individual effort and national progress and fraught with a million evils for our country.

Dr. Sheard is by way of being a sort of spellbinder, but his rhetoric amused rather than converted the house. He was, however, surpassed in indignation by Mr. Cockshutt, who thinks he must rush to the defence of all special privileges which are threatened lest a successful assault on one may lead to another on his beloved tariff. He positively shook with wrath as he recounted the woes that would arise from the passing of this horrible resolution. Dr. Michael Clark gave a more reasoned account of his opposition, and General Griesbach also showed hostility to it. Sir Thomas White felt it was unnecessary and might have untoward effects. But on the other side were a whole succession of speakers, including Mr. Carvell, Mr. Rowell and Messrs McMaster, Burnham Manion, Levi Thompson, Richardson, Fielding and Lemieux.

Majority in Favor.

Mr. G. B. Nicholson, of Algoma, who affects an omniscience, not always justified by results, on every possible subject, and is what is known in Scotland as a "Blether" moved an amendment to the effect that the report be referred back to the committee and severely moderated. Mr. Nickle wound up the debate in a most effective speech in which he demolished the contentions of his opponents and made a powerful plea for the report's adoption. No one was quite prepared for the heavy majority of 97 to 43 in favor of the report, but there it was, and titles are now banned in Canada, let us hope for eternity. Three ministers, Messrs. Carvell,

***** ADVANCE, AUSTRALIA! *****

Blinded Australian soldiers are to be provided with a house up to \$3,500 value, and with facilities for augmenting their income. The premises will be at the disposal of the beneficiary at a peppercorn rent of 1s a year.

Crerar and Rowell, voted for the report, and with them were all the prairie members save two, and all the Opposition save Mr. W. F. Kay. This timely reform will have far-reaching effects in other countries than Canada, and Mr. Nickle deserves the thanks of all democrats and progressives for his courage and perseverance. He has been ably backed up by Mr. McMaster and Mr. Burnham all through his fight.

In reply to Mr. Archambault, who has been importunate in his queries, Sir Thomas White announced that the budget would probably be brought down the first week in June. It has apparently been prepared, but has to receive the approval of the Premier, who doubtless will ponder long and carefully over its possible consequences.

Many Divorce Bills.

On Friday, Mr. Lemieux drew attention to the large number of divorce bills which were coming before the House this year, and declared that it was reaching the dimensions of a public scandal, and that in this respect we would soon reach the same pitch of laxness as our southern neighbors. The rest of the day was consumed in estimates. Mr. Fielding deplored the fact that while extra provision was being made for pensions to military and mounted police officers in the permanent force, the civil service was without a superannuation fund, which is indeed a crying scandal. Mr. Carvell in dealing with his estimates made a protest against the extravagant demands for expenditure of public money, with which he had been faced from every quarter of the country since the armistice. There was no limit to the requirements of the public for such doles, and if a quarter of them were acceded to the country would be bankrupt.

The trouble is that some of the least deserving are usually acceded to through the overwhelming pressure of powerful interests like the steel and shipbuilding companies. Mr. Carvell takes a very cavalier attitude with his estimates. There are many things he does not attempt to defend; he practically confesses that they are unjustifiable, but he has to work with a band of foolish and knavish colleagues, whose schemes he cannot check. He is obviously less in love with his present position than ever.

TIME FOR REFLECTION PAST; ACTION NEEDED

Editor, Canadian Railroader,

I am of the opinion that the best thing this government can do is to cease their prate about the foreigner in this country and get down to serious business. The people of this unhappy land have a perfect right to overthrow their government when it ceases to function, and the present government stands indicted before the people for its spineless attitude toward the food profiteer. This country produces food, and to say that the home market price is fixed by the selling price in a foreign market, is to insult the intelligence of every right-thinking individual; we know this has been the custom in the past, but as men who have investigated this matter, we now know perfectly well that the law of supply and demand has nothing at all to do with it. It is manipulation, or to state it bluntly, (and truthfully) ROBBERY, and the people are sick of it all, and no wonder, for the whole thing is nauseating in the extreme.

As for the labor situation, well, there are a few unpleasant facts to face. When the tillers of Canada's soil sent protest of what in their opinion was an injustice, they were turned away, the government even refusing to listen to a five-minute speech from two of their representatives. A few weeks later the whole Senate went in a body to hear President Gompers in the House of Commons. What in the name of common sense do you expect? Are Canada's citizens dullards? While the husbands, sons, and brothers of the best citizens of this country were going overseas by hundreds of thousands, and the long casualty lists proving in language unmistakable their loyalty, President Gompers was very busy on the other side denouncing the war, and when at last he saw what others had seen for three long bloody years, this labor mountebank is granted the whole of Canada's Legislative Hall to tell us how to conduct ourselves to prove our loyalty. TIME FOR REFLECTION? I should say not. It is time to act when Senators Robertson and Choquette publicly announce that the government has inside information bearing upon the exorbitant prices we are called upon to pay for the necessities of life, but, oh, what's the use; THE TIME FOR REFLECTION IS PAST.

Samuel Dale.

The man who has little to say, generally has much of importance to do.

I often thought how much I had lost in life, losing truthfulness, and how little I had gained, gaining hard caution.—"Hunted Down" by Charles Dickens.

With Proportional Representation British Labor Party Would Have Doubled Number of Seats

Proportional representation, one of the planks in the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association platform, is dealt with in an interesting and illuminating letter appearing in the Montreal Gazette over the signature of Ronald Hooper, Honorary Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Canada. The letter is reproduced here:—

Sir,—To thoughtful men who fear the growth in this country of what is termed Bolshevism, Lord Selborne's recent letter to the "London Times" should be commended. In referring to the dissatisfaction of labor with the recent British election returns, and the effect of these returns in stimulating direct action against political action, he writes:

"At the last general election the Labor party polled in contested seats in Great Britain 2,292,102 votes. This poll entitles them to 120 seats in Great Britain in respect of the contested constituencies alone, but the total number of seats they obtained in contested and uncontested constituencies was 59. The result is that the Labor party know that they are not fairly represented in the House of Commons, and many of their leaders whose presence they consider essential to the proper consideration of their business have failed to obtain seats in the House of Commons. The consequence is that they look less and less to the House of Commons as the place where the questions which interest them can be properly considered and dealt with, and that there is an ever increasing tendency to deal with these questions outside Parliament. This fact is fraught with danger."

British labor, with 59 seats, is looking less and less to the House of Commons for a solution of its problems; and this fact, says Lord Selborne, is fraught with danger. That being the case in Great Britain, then in this country, labor being wholly unrepresented in the House of Commons, Bolshevism might reasonably appear to be the only thing ahead.

Either that, or else, according to Lord Selborne, an exaggerated swing of the pendulum creating another virtual monopoly of representation—a monopoly, this time, of labor. He continues:

"At the next general election nothing is more probable than that the Unionist party will poll a sufficient number of votes to entitle them to a representation of 200 or more, but that the number of Unionist members returned will be under 100. Per contra, the Labor party may receive gross over-representation; but that will be no remedy for past injustice; it will only be aggravation of the evil."

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Conservative member for Hull, also saw this alternative ahead, and offered an armistice in the form of proportional representation when, on May

13th last from his place in Parliament, he said: "It is because I do not want to see the Carleton Club a refuge for aged cavaliers and despairing non-jurors, both of them voiceless, scratching epitaphs on the window-pane, taking no part in the politics of this world, that I entreat Conservatives to support proportional representation."

There is no good democratic government where there is government of all the people by one class of people. It is about as democratic as the Saturnalia—when dignified Roman senators, allowed their slaves to pull their noses once a year on condition that they would thump them for the rest of the year. And government by one class only would not be any less undemocratic merely because the classes had become reversed in power and authority.

Lord Selborne sketches the future thus: either absence of adequate labor representation in Parliament, accompanied by the spirit of bolshevism throughout the country, or control by labor of the Government with the resultant paucity of ideas and consequent dry rot that always accompanies an overwhelming, and too often overbearing, parliamentary majority. There is, however, another alternative: Representation in Parliament of all considerable parties in accordance with their strength throughout the country. As Mr. Asquith said in 1906. "Let us have a House of Commons that fully reflects every strain of opinion; that is what makes democratic government in the long run not only safer and more free, but more stable."

To put it a little strongly, perhaps, which shall it be: I.W.W. or P.R.?

You pays your money and you takes your choice.

Ronald Hooper.

SIR GEORGE BURY

HEADS PULP CO.

Recent Vice-President of C. P. R.
Chief Executive Whalen
Company.

Definite announcement is made that Sir George Bury, until recently vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., has been elected president and chief executive of the Whalen Pulp and Paper Mills, Limited, with offices at Vancouver. Sir George, who is one of the best known railroad men in Canada, has definitely associated himself with the Canadian pulp and paper industry on the Pacific Coast, by accept-

ing this appointment. Local representatives of the industry display keen interest in the announcement, which was altogether unexpected. The Whalen Company is one of the largest pulp and paper organizations on the Pacific Coast, with mills at Millcreek, Swansea Bay and Port Alice, B.C. As well as having a total annual production of fifty-four thousand tons of easy bleaching and eighteen thousand tons bleached sulphite pulp, some one hundred and fifty million feet of lumber, as well as a large quantity of shingles are produced each year. Its products have for many years reached the American Middle West, the American Pacific Coast, Japan and other Oriental markets. James Whalen, who is retiring from the active presidency of the Whalen organization, retains the chairmanship of the board of directors, as well as other large Pacific Coast financial interests.

It is believed that some interesting announcements concerning financing of the company in which Montreal and Chicago people are interested will be made in the near future.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the people who make its laws.

Read the platform of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, sent on request.

ANOTHER CLASS WAR!

The Villager quotes this advertisement from the "London Times":

"To All Who Are Getting Poorer: With rising taxation and with wicked prices for everything one needs to buy, what is to happen to those who are neither big capitalists nor labor men? Who is to pay the huge sums that are being squandered, often, it seems, for political ends? Far the biggest party in the State is the Third Party, and to-day it is looted at every turn. Who will join in helping to make it assert its strength? The advertiser, a retired officer, would be glad to hear from others who feel as he does, and who refuse to take everything lying down."

And here is another:

"Middle Classes Union. A new movement that interests you. The Union has been formed to protect the great, hitherto unorganized Middle Classes against the insatiable demands of Labor, the Power of Capital, the Indifference of Government. Full details of the Hon. Secretary."

How numerous is the middle class? How powerful in rank and file may the new party expect to be? No census in either Great Britain or the United States has been taken. But the company that feels itself oppressed is probably larger than is supposed. Talk of class wars—here

By Appointment



To H. M. King
George V.

Holt-Renfrew

Furs possess a superb quality of peltrey and finish and sell at distinctly moderate prices.

Holt, Renfrew & Co. Limited

Montreal Toronto
Quebec Winnipeg

is one afoot that will provide something of a shindy if it gets going. The men and women of small fixed incomes have feelings which are raw.

—(New York Tribune.)

Lots of men are sifting ashes today because they were burning money yesterday.

Aftermath.

Photographer (to grouchy customer): "There, sir, I congratulate myself on a success! I've caught you at your best—with that pleasant expression. But—I must tell you now, you've been sitting on your hat."

* * *

Anyway, They Took No Chances.

An insurance agent was filling out an application blank.

"Have you ever had appendicitis?" he asked.

"Well," answered the applicant, "I was operated on, but I have never felt quite sure whether it was appendicitis or professional curiosity." —Grit.

Mislaid.

"Aren't you ready, dear?" called husband from downstairs.

"As soon as I fix my hair, Henry," came to reply.

"Haven't you fixed your hair yet?" came from Henry an hour later.

"Fixed it?" shouted the female voice. "I haven't found it yet!" —"New York Evening Sun."

The Way the Wind Blows

SMASH HIGH RECORD

Provisions have again smashed the high record on the exchanges at Chicago. Following the announcement from Paris that "war bread" would again be the rule in Europe, the price of corn rose at a lively rate and reached \$1.70 for July delivery. An advance of nearly 7 cents per bushel was reached in one night.

* * *

NOT LIKE MONTREAL

Salaries of Des Moines, Iowa, teachers have been advanced 15 per cent for the ensuing year. This is the third advance in the past two years.

* * *

HOUSING HORRORS

Terrible statistics were given by J. C. Davison, M.P., a former sanitary inspector, in his speech in the House of Commons on the Housing Bill recently. There were 3,500,000 people in Britain, he said, who live in less than half a room each; 7,060,000 who have less than a room apiece and 23,000,000 who live in tenements of from one to five rooms. Over 500,000 more houses were required merely to allow for the provision in Britain of one room per head. These conditions were reflected in the rates of infantile mortality, which, Mr. Davison reminded the House, were as high as 160 per thousand for miners, and 150 to 250 per thousand for unskilled laborers, while for doctors it was only 40, and for the middle classes generally only 77 per thousand. Not 400,000 new houses were required as had been stated by those responsible for the bill, but a million, if the present insanitary houses were to be replaced.

* * *

ENDCRSE SHORTER HOURS

The Ministerial Association at Spokane, Wash., went on record as backing demands of striking bakery workers for a six-day week. The bakers do not want to work on Sunday, and the ministers will take up the issue in the pulpit. The association also indorsed the effort of the retail clerks to secure shorter hours.

* * *

ASK FOR SHORTER HOURS

At the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Journalists in London, England, a resolution was moved instructing the executive committee to take a ballot within three months on the question of affiliation with the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, and to proceed forthwith to effect an agreement if the ballot should authorize such action. It was pointed out that what benefits they had gained in the past had been on the back of the Typographical Society. It was agreed that there should be a three-fifths majority before the ballot became operative, and the

original motion, thus amended, was adopted.

On the subject of hours of labor, the following resolution was passed: "That it be an instruction to the national executive committee immediately to take action for securing shorter hours for journalists on the following basis: A seven-hour day for day workers, a six-hour night for night workers, and a 5½ day week, of not more than 38½ hours, for day workers, and of not more than 33 hours for night workers.

* * *

UNIONISM WILL WIN

The reporters have been locked out by the publishers of the daily newspapers in Salt Lake City, Utah, for trying to form a union. When it became known that an effort was under way to form an organization the publishers held a conference and agreed to employ no reporter who had taken any part in the movement. A charter, however, will be applied for and a fight will be made for recognition, backed by organized labor.

* * *

\$7 FOR EIGHT HOURS

The new wage scale for the 5,000 members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of Washington and Alexandria, Va., fixed by the district council of that organization some time ago and just made public, will be 87½ cents an hour, or \$7 for an 8-hour day.

The old wage scale under which these skilled mechanics have been working since the war period began was 75 cents an hour, or \$6 a day. So far as could be ascertained all the contractors have either signed the new scale or else will agree to pay the same when it becomes effective.

* * *

FARM LABORERS' AVERAGE

The average wage rate paid to farm labor in Canada in 1918 was the highest on record. During the summer the average rate a month, including board, was \$70 for men, a gain of \$6 in one year; and \$38 for women, a gain of \$4. For the whole year 1918 the average wage rate, including board, was \$617 for men and \$416 for women, a gain of \$6 and \$62 respectively, over 1917. The average value of board per month in 1918 was \$21 for men and \$17 for women, against \$19 and \$15 in 1917.

* * *

FORM LABOR PROGRAMME

Simultaneously with the reading to Congress of President Wilson's recommendations of labor legislation, Senate Progressives, through Senator Kenyon, announced a programme of labor laws to be introduced at once.

They enunciated the same principle the President declared must dominate in labor legislation — a "partnership" of capital and la-

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MIRRORS, LEADED ART GLASS,
WINDSHIELD GLASS, ETC.

THE HOBBS

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bor, in which each shall share in the profits of industry.

MENTAL DEFECTS

That society pays a heavy penalty for the neglect of its children is shown by a study of mental defects in a rural county made in an eastern state by the children's bureau of United States department of labor and the United States public health service. The study included 192 feeble-minded children.

The county, says the report, is a backward rural county, such as may be found in many sections of the United States. The parents of 54 per cent of the white children and 71 per cent of the colored children who were living in their own homes, were without the means to provide

TIME FOR AGREEMENT.

(Christian Guardian)

So far as we are able to interpret the spirit of Canadian labor there is not much of lawlessness at present in evidence, but there is a universal grim determination to secure a change of conditions, which shall be more favorable to the workingman. With this spirit nearly the whole country will be found to be in accord. But if we refuse to listen to this plea, we shall be playing into the hands of a much smaller element, which seeks not better conditions, but absolute control of all industries. This is the time for compromise and agreement, and not for a fight to a finish, which may easily develop into a widespread conflagration wholly beyond our control.

properly for their families. The schools are inadequate for the needs of even normal children, and most of them are of the one-room-one-teacher type, and many of them are insanitary, dingy conditions, while 71 per cent. of the colored children could claim exemption to attendance because of the distance to be traversed. Irregularity of attendance caused by farm work, berry picking and making holly wreaths for Christmas time further reduced the schooling of children in this county.

* * *

UNION SALARIES

Protests against what are claimed to be extravagant salaries were downed with cries of "cheap" and "piker," as the national convention of the brotherhood of railway clerks at Cincinnati last week spurred on and voted the salaries to national officers: Grand President, \$10,000 a year; grand secretary-treasurer, \$7,500; grand vice-presidents each \$4,000; organizers, each, \$3,600; editor, the clerk, \$3,600, and members of the board of directors, expenses.

The salary of the grand president has been \$3,500.

ACTORS WIN VICTORY

The newly-formed Actors' Association in Great Britain has obtained an agreement with the Managers' association for a uniform contract which remedies most of the grievances under which the rank and file of the stage have suffered. The chief points of the agreement are for a week of eight performances, a minimum of \$15; for each rehearsal of not more than six hours, \$2.50, except for actors receiving \$50 a week; double pay for Sunday rehearsals; no Sunday rehearsals except by mutual arrangement.

The management is to provide all costumes which actors cannot use in private capacity, and all dresses, shoes and gloves for ladies.

Actors salaried below \$50 a week are to provide only one suit, and none to provide more than three suits.

The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

An application blank will be found below. Merely fill out the application blank, buy a postal order for \$2 and send it to Dominion Headquarters. Your membership card will be forwarded by return mail. Join this great organization in the interests of education and clean politics. *Today is the day and this is the hour. Become a member now.*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Secretary,

The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada,
General Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building,
MONTREAL, QUE.

I hereby make application for membership in "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada." I subscribe and agree to pay, while a member, the yearly fee of \$2.00 in advance.

Name.....

Amount paid \$..... Address.....

Date City.....

Province.....

Make all cheques and money orders payable to "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada."

Official membership card will be mailed from headquarters, with copy of platform, constitution and general rules.

PROFITEERING; INFLATION.

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

When political economists say in effect that the cost of living is subject only to the law of the jungle, they are gladly believed by many politicians, but not at all believed by the mass of the people. The people continue to look to Government and Parliament for deliverance from the pressure of mounting prices. They deny that prices belong to a region of anarchy from which they can never be redeemed by righteous public authority. And the sense and the instinct of the people are right. Governments are bound to grapple with the high cost of living. Unless they take that out of its present state of lawlessness they will soon have everything else there.

WOULD HAVE STATE CARE FOR MOTHERS

In connection with the letter of appeal sent out a few weeks ago, when the Victorian Order of Nurses annual box collection was being conducted, the following reply has been received from a well-wisher of the order who hid his identity under "Humane Democracy":

"In answer to your appeal for the support of the Victorian Order of Nurses, I desire to express my condemnation of circumstances that make it necessary for you, and others, to make such appeal.

"It is unwarrantable that there is the necessity for young women to beg on the streets, for charity's sake, to help this cause, and it is a travesty on our so-called civilization. What kind of government do we pretend to have which neglects such crying needs of the people?"

"Every mother who brings a child into the world should be provided proper care and attention, for a month at least, and any human government would ensure this by passing the necessary acts."

"If our members of parliament are not humanitarians they should, at least, take such steps as a matter of policy, for the benefit of the nation."

"We hear discussions in the House about providing means to help the men who have suffered during the last four years, but never a word for the women who suffer now, and have suffered for generations, in bringing souls into the world."



QUALITY ALWAYS

No matter what you buy from the Mappin Store—whether some trifle costing a dollar or a diamond costing a thousand, you have the satisfaction of knowing that nothing better at the price can be obtained. Send for our beautiful gift book of Jewellery, Cutlery, Silverware, etc. It's free.

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"I think all citizens should contribute their fair share of a tax for this purpose, and I therefore, am sending a cheque as my portion of such tax, with regret that owing to so many calls being made, it is not for a larger amount".

Too many men seem to think that optimism consists only of seeing the silver lining to the other man's cloud.

Conduct your business as though working in a glass office.

Keep your health if you would keep your business.

Every bald-headed man has a lot of experience he would gladly swap for some hair.

Don't worry if you are hated—but never allow anyone to become disgusted with you.

When a fool realizes his condition, he is no longer quite a fool.

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PURE WOOL WEAR

For sale at Jaeger Stores and agencies throughout Canada.

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Bird-Scarer Laborer, Reformer And M.P.

THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF JOSEPH ARCH, WHO ACCOMPLISHED WONDERS FOR FARM WORKERS.

Who was Joseph Arch? Well, for one thing, he was a bird-scaring, earning eight cents a day; for another thing, he was an agricultural laborer; for another thing, he was a sort of rural preacher; for another thing, he talked to his mates about some sort of organization; effected the organization; entered the British Parliament; wrote several chapters of English history and one of the most important parts of the labor movement, of which he may rightly be termed a founder; for the last thing, he recently died, in his ninety-third year.

He had retired 18 years ago from public life, and his work has been written, and in respectful terms too, into the history books. You will find the name of Joseph Arch in the indices. You will find also that from the bird-scaring and laborer, standing under his chestnut tree in the Midlands, flows that swelling stream of liberal reform which the labor movement has directed toward the betterment of mankind.

Bitter Experience

He was born at Barford, a village near Warwick, on November 10, 1826, when Victoria, later Queen, was only 11 years old. As a tiny child his experience were bitter. He has described them in his "Reminiscences," published in 1898, and edited by his friend and benefactor in later years, the Countess of Warwick.

His father had refused to sign a petition in favor of the notorious Corn Laws, and incurred the enmity of the local land owners. Joseph Arch wrote of this:

"It was in 1835, the winter of the repeal of the Corn Laws. I was about nine years old. I well remember eating barley bread, and seeing the tears in my poor mother's eyes as she cut slices off a loaf; for even barley loaves were all too scarce, and especially with us just then. Because my father had refused to sign for a small loaf and a dear one, he could not get any work whatever for eighteen weeks. He tried hard to get a job, but it was useless; he was a marked man, and we should have starved if my mother had not kept us all by her laundry work."

Iron in His Soul.

"It was a terrible winter. No one who has not gone through it, or has not witnessed something similar, can realize how terrible it was. The scenes I witnessed then made an indelible impression on my mind. I have often told the Tories, 'You caused the iron to enter into my soul very young, and you will never draw it out. It will remain there till I die.' That barley bread got into my vitals."

It was just at this time, at 9 years old, that he was earning his 8 cents a day as a bird-scarer. He had man-

aged to get a bit of schooling, and learned to read and write. He was a typical farm-laborer's son, and the one stable thing the poverty-ridden family possessed was a little free-hold cottage, purchased for \$150 by Arch's grandfather.

From bird-scaring he graduated to ploughboy at ten years, and later he rose to teamster. When he was 20 years old, his wage was \$2.25 a week.



JOSEPH ARCH

He was a man with ambition, and one can picture the crude, slightly-tutored, farm-hand, grubbing his food from day to day, and pondering, as he pursued his dismal toil, on the whys and wherefores of human happiness, and the inequalities of existence.

On \$2.25 a week and his ambition he married, and when his family had increased by two children, his ambition spurred him to become a "specialist." In other words he became a "jobbing" laborer. He did gravel-digging, draining, wood-cutting, and hedge-cutting, and worked very long hours, mostly on piece-work; so he became one of the skilled "upper men" of rural labor.

County-side Speaker.

Joseph Arch was reading diligently. His work often took him a long way from home, across all the Midland counties, and into Wales. It was in this way he acquired his extensive knowledge of the details of agricultural conditions. On these trips he stinted himself of food, and would sleep under hedges and haystacks, pouring over his book while light lasted, and sending the money saved home to his wife and children.

On one of these journeys he became aroused by some statement of a speaker at a village meeting, and getting to

his feet, made his first halting speech. What he said carried conviction with it, and his reception was such that he became a well-known country-side speaker and acquired further practice as a Methodist local preacher.

What was it that Arch said, which proved so interesting to that first little rural audience? Well, it was something about "combination," as the possible way for relief from those terrible conditions under which the Midland farm laborers suffered in 1870.

Wonderful Scene.

His preparation had not been in vain, even though it had taken forty-six years of his life to reach this point. On the night of February 7, 1872, Joseph Arch was at home doing some carpentering job for the cottage. Three men sauntered up and asked him to leave his work to talk with them. They represented themselves as the spokesmen for a body of laborers who felt the time had come to form one of these "combinations." Arch had spoken about, and they asked him to come and address them at Wellesbourne that evening.

"We settled," wrote Arch, in his autobiography, "that I should address the meeting under the old chestnut tree, and I expected to find some thirty or forty of the principal men there. What, then, was my surprise to see, not a few tens, but many hundreds of laborers assembled; there were nearly two thousand of them. The news that I was going to speak that night had been spread about, and so the men had come in from all the villages round within a radius of ten miles. Not a circular had been sent out nor a hand-bill printed, but from cottage to cottage, and from farm to farm, the word had been passed on; and here were the laborers gathered together in their hundreds. By this time the night had fallen pitch dark; but the men got beanpoles and hung lanterns on them, and we could see well enough. It was an extraordinary sight, and I shall never forget it, not to my dying day. I mounted an old pig-stool, and in the flickering light of the lanterns I saw the earnest upturned faces of these poor brothers of mine—faces gaunt with hunger and pinched with want—all looking toward me and ready to listen to the words that would fall from my lips. These white slaves of England stood there with the darkness all about them, like the Children of Israel waiting for some one to lead them out of Egypt."

Emigration Weapon.

The immediate result of Arch's tireless activity was an outpouring of money in support of the movement, from all parts of England, and in the short space of three months, the meeting under the chestnut tree had swept the laborers of England into a National Agricultural Union, with Arch as pre-

sident. This was in May, 1872, and for five years the organization was successful. Emigration was introduced reluctantly as a weapon by Arch when he discovered that farmers, faced with the definite emigration of laborers and the depopulation of their villages, quickly became yielding and reasonable to approach. A visit by Joseph Arch to Canada in the following year firmly established the emigration weapon, and a general rise in farm laborers' wages throughout the country resulted.

The decline of the Union is traced to several causes. This very weapon of emigration often took out of the country strong leaders of the movement, who would have been the backbone of the organization; many of the men, having achieved the raise in wages, withdrew from the organization; an ensuing agricultural depression assisted the decline; and it had never been able to get on a self-supporting basis.

Joseph Arch, however, turned eagerly to politics. He launched the allotment movement—the same kitchen garden scheme which provided the saving from starvation of half the homes in England during the recent war. The Allotments Act was passed in 1882.

In 1885 he was elected to the House of Commons, to lose his seat two years later. In 1892, his sixtieth year, he regained his seat for Northwest Norfolk, which he represented for eight years, until his retirement, in 1900. The organization's work was done, and so was his. At 74 he passed from the public stage, a poor man, with practically nothing to his hand except the little cottage at Barford. His work began to be history; friends and even foes of reform, found words of praise for the splendid old figure whose work had been done so fearlessly, so honestly, a figure of solid probity and religious enthusiasm.

His little cottage was near the estate of the Countess of the Warwick, and the Warwicks for generations had been the employers, off and on, of Arch's family. The Countess visited the old man, discovered his condition, and made it her business to secure for him the competence for his declining years he had so well deserved. The little cottage, bought by his grandfather for \$150, became The Cottage, and the mecca of thousands anxious to see and have a word with the hero of so memorable a movement.

Laugh with your customers, but never at them.

A workman on time saves hunting nine jobs.

The more you work the less you worry.

EDITORIALS

GEORGE PIERCE - EDITOR

Penal System Reform

THE thin end of the wedge for the bringing about of a great reform movement in the city police courts has just been introduced through the efforts of a joint committee of social workers. The establishment of some system of helping those who come under the law for minor criminal offences, especially when they are young and first offenders, has been felt to be a crying need by all who know the routine of the courts. Too many young and comparatively innocent men and women have been sent to jail for some offence such as petty theft or street solicitation, and have thereby begun a criminal career, for it is a well-known fact that any person who has tasted the jail atmosphere, becomes hardened, embittered and discouraged. To produce such a result in young and potentially good citizens is suicidal for a country which in normal times is crying for population. Experiments in the United States and in Great Britain have shown that where a system of suspended sentence is tried, the offender being put under friendly and helpful supervision, with full personal liberty and no "ticket-of-leave" element, beneficial results have ensued, and in this way individual lives have been rendered a success instead of a failure, while the State has reaped a corresponding benefit. It is this system that Montreal needs.

It frequently happens that efforts towards reform and progress are simultaneous and on convergent lines. This has happened in Montreal. While the Canadian Prisoners' Welfare Association was pressing this point of view, the Committee of Sixteen was considering the necessity of having someone in the courts to look after women and girls, particularly with a view to follow-up work outside the courts — not the follow-up work of the police, but of the friendly and helpful probation officer of the offenders' own sex. The Salvation Army had early this year initiated some work of this sort in the Recorder's court. The joint committee thinking it would be well to co-ordinate these efforts, called these various parties together, with the result that a working agreement has been arrived at whereby all the voluntary probation efforts will be pooled. Some day it is hoped the provincial and city authorities will be convinced of the necessity for putting this work on an official basis and recognize that it is better to pay probation officers than police and jail officials. However, a beginning has been made and perhaps it may prove the first step of a series of fundamental reforms which are needed in our penal system.

Unionized Journalists

NOW that a union of journalists exists in Montreal — the first in Canada, but only a part of a wide-spreading movement — the Canadian Railroader has pleasure in announcing itself as a "union shop" so far as its editorial work is concerned. Its permanent editorial staff is composed exclusively of members of the Newswriters Union of Montreal, and in the matter of contributions from journalists the policy has been established of using the services of union journalists wherever these are obtainable.

It is axiomatic that there will never be real freedom of the press until there is freedom of the men and women who write and edit for the press, though it has taken us a long while to discover it, and until the fine sentiments expressed in editorial columns are carried into practical application in all editorial departments.

This matter of organization of journalists goes further in its effects than the betterment of the wages and working conditions of journalists. National organization of Canadian journalists would mean that in every editorial department in the country would be men and women workers not only intent on seeing that other organized workers and the community generally got a square deal, but able to insist on it whenever the reactionary of the press tried to show his ugly head. The moral effect of organization amongst journalists would alone be of importance.

The day is probably coming when organized journalists will be the newspaper proprietor's safeguard against loss of public confidence and against extremist tendencies of various sorts. Some proprietors apparently recognize this to some extent. At any rate it has been discovered that there are newspaper proprietors in Montreal and other Canadian and American cities who are frankly in favor of unionized editorial departments where they exist or are in process of formation or consideration. It is easy to forecast, too, that that type of proprietor is the type least likely to have difficulties with his employees when they present claims for changes in conditions. He has built on a basis of goodwill and give-and-take, the only basis on which problems of to-day's restlessness in newspaper offices and elsewhere can be satisfactorily analyzed and adjusted for the benefit of all concerned.

Six-Hour Day Practical Says British Employer

A book written by Lord Leverhulme, British manufacturer, in favor of the six-hour day, will make interesting reading for chambers of commerce and manufacturers' associations, says Prof. Wm. F. Ogburn, formerly of the University of Washington, in a review of the book which is published in the Monthly Labor Review of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Lord Leverhulme is pictured as anything but a moralist, a sentimental, or a fanatic, and is strongly opposed to all forms of philanthropy and charity. "He is a hard man," writes Prof. Ogburn, who quotes the Britisher:

"There could be no worse friend to labor than the benevolent, philanthropic employer who carries his business in a loose, lax manner, showing 'kindness' to his employees."

In the book are several pages of evidence to show that by using machinery continuously in its highest point of productivity for two six-hour shifts, the worker will produce more than under present systems. Lord Leverhulme thinks the time is ripe now for the six-hour day in England with the same wage rate as is now paid for eight and ten hours. He favors not only high, and still higher wages, but wants the employees to share in the profits of the industry. His profit sharing plan, which he terms "co-partnership," is in no sense the usual American substitute for a living wage, but is a return over and above the trade union rate of wages and acts in no sense as a bar to further wage increases.

He wants to abolish poverty, and in advocating good homes for the workers would limit the number of houses on an acre of ground so that every home would have a garden.

According to Lord Leverhulme, industrial success is concerned quite as much with consumers as producers. Many leaders of industry have seemed primarily concerned with production, and their interest in consumption consists largely in marketing. Lord Leverhulme seems to have a broader conception of marketing and

makes his social philosophy turn a good deal on this point of consumption. Raising the standard of living means creating a market. Hence, higher wages are good because they mean a better market.

"Ninety percent of the consumers of the United Kingdom are workers," he says. "The six hour day means two more hours of leisure, which furnish opportunity for education, the higher life and the expenditure of more money thus improving the market. The plan of two shifts means enabling the non-spending unemployed to become consumers and thus to develop the market. It also increases the purchasing public."

Prof. Ogburn says Lord Leverhulme's conception of reform is along lines of increased production of commodities of wealth at a lessening cost of production per unit at the same time shortening hours of labor and paying higher wages. The foundation stone is increased production.

UNIONS SPEAK FOR LABOR

The claim of anti-unionists that the organized workers cannot speak for 30,000,000 unorganized workers is answered by the "Washington Herald," which declares that "unions represented labor when they had but 5 or 4 or even 1 percent organized."

"The policies they expressed with 100,000 members drew to them 2,900,000 more," says this paper. "They could give no more convincing proof of approval. Organizing the 27,000,000 more would not change the policies.

"The unions represented all labor in industrial struggles. That 10 per cent. in a union, have thousands of times called, conducted and won strikes with the consent and loyal allegiance of the remaining 90 per cent does not prove intimidation, but that the unions voiced the aspirations of all. Denouncing such a situation is simply scolding facts.

"Reactionary employers and radical demagogues agree that unions do not represent labor. The experience of half a century proves them wrong. What the unions think and do to-day, all labor thinks and does to-morrow."

BLAME THE GOVERNMENT

At a meeting of the National Council of Trades and Labor of the Quebec and Levis districts last week a unanimous protest was passed against what was termed the "gross inaction of the Federal Government," in regard to the high cost of living.

Representations against this negligence on the part of the Ottawa Government will be made, among other things, for the restraint of the export of certain fodostuffs from Canada.

NOW

By RALPH CHEYNEY.

Oh, sing the songs of joy and peace; if you've the heart; The world will thunder in your ears the vast refrain— Or go and lose yourself in drugs or love or art; You can't escape the sound of squalor, strife, and pain.

WHAT IF IT IS?

By Mae E. Smith

What if the world is all marred up with sin,
With selfishness, graft and conceit?
What if there are those who will fully plan
To sting just whoever they meet?
What if there's people who love to do wrong—
With never a thought of regret?
What if the world is just awfully bad—
There's a whole lot of good in it yet.

What if there's fighting, and trickery and strife,
Till the heart's aching with pain?
What if there's starving, and suffering and grief,
That some heartless wretch might see gain?
What if the future looks shrouded with gloom;
With trials that are still to be met?
What if the present seems empty and sad?
There's a whole lot of good for us yet.

There's a sky overhead of the richest of blue,
Where blends with its colors of gold;
There's a sun sending forth bright sun-rays of light—
There are fields where the daisies unfold.
At night there's a curtain which shuts out the light—
Though it with bright stars is beset—
So what if the world does seem wicked and dark?
There's a whole lot of good in it yet.

There are friends who are noble in thought and in deed—
Who would give the world naught but the best;
There are those who would cling to the right, 'mid the wrong,
No matter what e'er be the test.
There's good to out-balance each wrong which is done,
So why should we worry and fret?
Of course the world's shamefully scarred up with sin—
But there's a whole lot of good in it yet.

Great Pun, This.

"There were two actresses in an early play of mine," said an author, "both very beautiful; but the other day, and she ended the quarrel one day at rehearsal with the other day, and she ended the quarrel by saying, haughtily: 'Remember I am the star!'"

"Yes, I know you're the star," the other retorted, eyeing with an amused smile the leading actress's long, slim figure, "but you'd look better, my dear, if you were a little meteor!"—Detroit Free Press."

SCARED PROFITEERS.

The infuriated populace in Prague last week erected gallows in the principal street, whither they conducted fifty-seven food profiteers and threatened to hang them unless they took an oath they would sell their wares at reasonable prices, says a despatch from that city. All the alleged profiteers took the oath.

FAVORS 8-HOUR DAY

With the approval of Bishop Clark, the following resolution was presented to the Niagara Synod last week by Rev. Dr. Miller and Hon. Richard Harcourt, St. Catharines:

"On account of the great social unrest in Canada, this synod petitions the Government to pass an act making the eight hour day the legal working day throughout Canada."

Dr. Miller urged the synod to endorse the petition, so as to win back labor, which had become estranged from the Church.

The Right Man.

"They say Miss Highstrung is going to marry an army officer."
"Well, I should think that a man who makes a business of war might be able to get along with her?"—Boston Transcript".

Employed.

Knicker: "Has Jones returned to his pre-war work?"

Bocker: "Yes, he is looking for the same job he was looking for." "New York Sun".

LAND SHARK LICKED.

North Dakota has passed a home-building law that is a model of workers' legislation. In the first place speculation in land was attacked in new revenue laws taxing land heavily, if not kept in use. Much of this land goes to the state as the owners can't afford to pay taxes and let the land lie idle.

Under its home building law, the state may buy large tracts of idle land and \$2,000,000 has been appropriated to start operations. Then, if a citizen wants a farm, he has only to raise twenty per cent. of the price. The state buys the land desired by the citizen and gives him twenty years in which to pay the other 80 per cent. without exorbitant rates of interest or premiums, and without the hazards of a private mortgage transaction.

The same applies to workers in the cities. They may buy homes on the same plan. In either case, the state will erect buildings, if desired, on the same basis, the purchaser paying one-fifth down and the remainder in twenty years.

Speculators and their profits are thus to be eliminated.

The WOMAN'S FORUM

Rose Henderson

BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH

BABY WELFARE

Last week was "baby welfare week". This has come to be looked upon as an annual event in Montreal, a city, let it be said to our shame and horrorè notorious for its high death-rate amongst its child population, a death-rate at least 80 p.c. of which is preventable, if only a little intelligence, generosity and humanitarianism entered into our legislative assemblies.

It is a question in the minds of many if this exhibition is really accomplishing any permanent good. The promoters of this venture deserve all credit and praise for their unselfishness, their zeal and desire to help the mothers of the poor and still more helpless children, but unless a determined effort is made to find out causes permanent results cannot be obtained or those responsible for the causes of this child slaughter be made acquainted with the undesirability of their citizenship. Until such facts are made public the money and time must be looked upon, broadly speaking, as a waste; another camouflage, another poultice, when in reality the knife should be applied.

A lack in the Schools.

A campaign of education should go on, by all means. There is no training given in our schools for the important business of motherhood. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that women have no place on the school board or the making of the curriculum, consequently home, motherhood and child culture are questions tabooed. Hence the necessity of leaflets, booklets and exhibits to teach mothers the simple as well as the more complex truths of child culture. But this is not enough. Society must be organized so as to make life safe and wholesome for every mother and babe.

A mother may have all the knowledge necessary to enable her to feed and care for her child, but if she is confronted with low wages, high prices for food, bad housing, impure milk, adulterated food, and the prospects of having to go out to help earn the family support, nine chances out of ten her baby will die before its fifth year, or, if it does grow up, it will be inferior both in body and mind. This is the problem confronting all who have the welfare of the next generation at heart, and until fearlessly faced all efforts will be in vain. A child here and there will be saved, but to what purpose? Thousands will go to the cemetery to untimely graves, untimely because of society's greed and indifference.

Foodless Babies.

The exhibit did not attract the numbers this year that it has in the past, though the exhibition on the whole was an improvement on previous ef-

forts. The people, however, who should have been there were conspicuously by their absence, for instance the Milk Trust, the Ice Profiteers, the owners who reap rich harvests out of the filthy tenements and so forth. The local milk distributors exact a toll from the mothers and children of the poor to the tune of fully 100 per cent. profit. The milk costs the dealer delivered at Montreal, from seven to seven and a half cents a quart. This sells to the consumer at eight cents per pint which is more than the quart costs the dealer. These milk dealers are holding to war-time prices in spite of the fact that thousands of men are walking the streets looking for work while their babies are slowly but surely starving to death for the want of milk, which, even though the fathers work, they find it hard to obtain. The extra price on the pint may seem little, but it is the very poorest who are reduced to a pint a day. Thousands have had to cut down the milk supply from a quart to a pint daily, while others have had to do away with even the pint.

Seventy-five per cent. of the infants and children in certain districts of Montreal get little if any milk; the result is depleted vitality, stunted bodies, anaemic brains, from which death is a happy release.

Wilted Children.

This condition of childhood was particularly noticeable amongst the children. Most of the babies brought by mothers were healthy, beautiful and promising, but children of two years and upwards were like wilted flowers; thin, white-faced and showing decided signs of undernourishment.

Is it any wonder when one realizes the price of staple foods, such as milk, eggs, butter, fruit, meat and vegetables, food necessary to child life. What a hideous nightmare life has become for most mothers! I will leave the reader to judge from the following conversation with one of the many mothers who came to the exhibit, hoping to find release from their burdens.

"I go around this exhibition every year. I read the directions to do this and do that. Most of us mothers don't need to be told. We know what to do and what our children need. What we want to know is how are we going to get the means to do it. Life grows harder and harder every day, food dearer, clothes are cheap only in quality, homes are scarcer and dearer; what are you people doing to procure those things necessary for our children? Very few mothers want babies to-day. Many women I know are doing all in their power to prevent conception. Can you blame them, what's before our

children to-day? My oldest girl had to leave school before this babe was born. I couldn't attend to everything. She got behind in her studies and couldn't catch up. She is refined, has a splendid mind and wanted to make something out of herself, but the added expense has made it necessary for her to get to work.

Daily Worries.

"Before this baby was born my husband and I used to sit and figure up how we would meet the expense of this birth. I worried night and day for if we once got into debt it is almost impossible to get our head above water again. The struggle is terrible. Why should mothers have to worry so and do without so much, while women who have no children have more than they know what to do with? I should have had the doctor often for this child since his birth. He has only gained one pound, and is now three months old. I'll soon be out of the worst of the struggle and if nothing happens in the meantime, I will take the doctor and find out what is wrong."

I venture to say the only thing that was wrong was the fact of the undernourishment of the mother.

This is the story of thousands of mothers. These are the mothers whose sons won the war and brought honor to the Empire. These are the women upon whose shoulders rests the burden of the next generation, and these are the women whose awakening conscience is stirring menfolk to unrest, inspiring them with that divine discontent responsible for all progress and human welfare.

League of Mothers

Canon Shatford in speaking at the exhibit said he "hoped to see a league of fathers shouting from the rooftops and holding meetings in squares to protest against the destruction of child life in this city." He will ere

long have this granted. He will also see a league of mothers not alone in this city but in every town and city in the Dominion, whose one aim shall be a better nation for their children and woe betide the city fathers or politicians who will interfere with their work. Those mothers will make conditions through legislation and use every means at their command to give their children at least as much consideration as men have given to animals.

Women have left the running of the outside world exclusively to men. It is high time for a change of administration. The race calls to women for a release and emancipation from the horror of poverty war, vice and crime.—What about a League of the Mothers?

FALLING PRICES

Some commodities, at least, are falling. Crutches have dropped from \$2.50 to \$2.00, What a blessing! I don't believe that there will be any noticeable rush for this bargain, however, so take your time!

It is noticeable now that the war is over women have stopped knitting, even though there are thousands of children sadly in need of stockings. The thought, "The poor ye have always with you", will no doubt be a balm for their conscience.

DEMAND 4-HOUR DAY.

Two thousand lignite miners at Florence, Italy, have adopted a 4-hour working day. The mine owners have ordered the restoration of a 7-hour day. A lockout or strike is expected.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK

Negotiations between the employers and Garment Workers' union at Edmonton terminated in establishing a 44-hour week and a substantial increase in wages.

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SAVE.—Start to-day, so that you may not be helpless in the hour of trial.

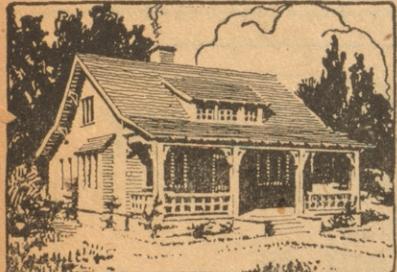
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WORKING CHILDREN

Minimum standards for the welfare of working children were drawn up in tentative form as a result of three-days' conference on child welfare standards, held in Washington. These standards will be further discussed at regional conferences to be held during the next three weeks in several cities under the auspices of the children's bureau of the United States department of labor.

Sixteen is set as the lowest age at which children can go to work in any occupation during the months when school is in session. Nine months' schooling, either part or full time, for children between 7 and 18 years is proposed as the minimum educational standard. A child of 16 cannot go to work unless he has completed the eighth grade. Education beyond the eighth grade is to be provided for employed children between 16 and 18 years old by attendance at day or continuation schools.

The work day of minors shall never be longer than eight hours and for children between 16 and 18 years shall be less than the adult's working day. Night work and employment in hazardous occupations shall be prohibited.

WOMEN'S UNION LEAGUE

A programme for the next two years will be mapped out by the National Women's Trade Union League of America at its biennial convention to be held in Philadelphia, June 2 to 7. This programme will have three main objectives, according to the convention call issued from headquarters at Chicago. They are: "To organize all workingwomen into trade unions; to make possible for women an equality with men in industrial and professional opportunity; to make equal pay for equal work a fact instead of a theory, and to translate the nation's war work standards for women into legislative action, so as to assure for women on the constructive work of peace the same protection that was given them on the destructive work."

TO REDUCE LIVING COST

At a joint meeting of the City Council, Board of Trade, Trades and Labor Council and citizens of Port Arthur, Ont., a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to take immediate steps to reduce in Canada what is described as the unnecessary and deplorable high cost of living and to bring into effect the eight-hour day for all workers. This resolution was presented to Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, on his way through en route to Winnipeg last week.

Saturday holiday.

The five-day working week has been instituted by the Seattle Building Trades Council, comprising 25 affiliated local unions. The measure was adopted without any objection from employers, and work was suspended in conformity with the new rule on all union jobs.

AFFECTING WOMEN.

Important laws affecting women will come into operation in North Dakota on July 1, one measure establishing the eight-hour day, another a welfare commission having the power to fix minimum wages.

Under the provisions of the eight-hour law, no woman worker is permitted to work more than 48 hours a week, and not more than nine hours in any one day, nor is she permitted to work more than six days a week. The law exempts telephone workers in towns of less than 500 population, and also domestic workers, both in the city and rural districts.

The Connoisseurs.

Our friend the pianist dropped in on us yesterday.

"Did you go to the symphony concert?" we asked him.

"Yes."

"Enjoy it?"

"No."

"Why, I heard it was very good."

"It may have been the best ever for all I know."

"What was the matter?"

"Two women who sat behind me kept up a constant line of chatter during the whole affair."

"What did they talk about—the ending of the war?"

"No; they were telling each other how much they loved music."—*"Cleveland Plain Dealer"*.

A New Standard in Art.

Among the bewildered and, in some cases, indignant spectators gathered at a recent Futurist exhibition of painting and sculpture in New York City was a young man from Kansas City who was paying a visit to a cousin who is very "strong" for the new movement in art.

The Kansas City youth remained quiet during the view and the subsequent explanations of the new idea given him by his cousin.

"Well," said the cousin, at last, "you don't seem to be particularly interested or enthusiastic about the pictures. What do you think?"

"Think!" exclaimed the youth from Kansas City. "Why, man, I've got two aunts out West that can knit better pictures than these!"—*"Harper's"*.

The Useful Kind.

"You shall admit that it requires great ability to rise high in politics."

"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "only the kind of ability that enables a man to land a job isn't always the kind of ability that enables him to fulfill its duties."—*"Washington Star"*.

Quite Unlike.

"That fellow Beatem is a sponge."

"Don't libel a useful article. You couldn't get anything back from Beatem by squeezing him."—*"Boston Transcript"*.

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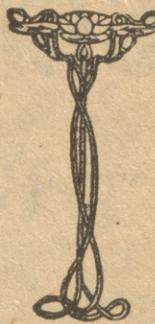
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